



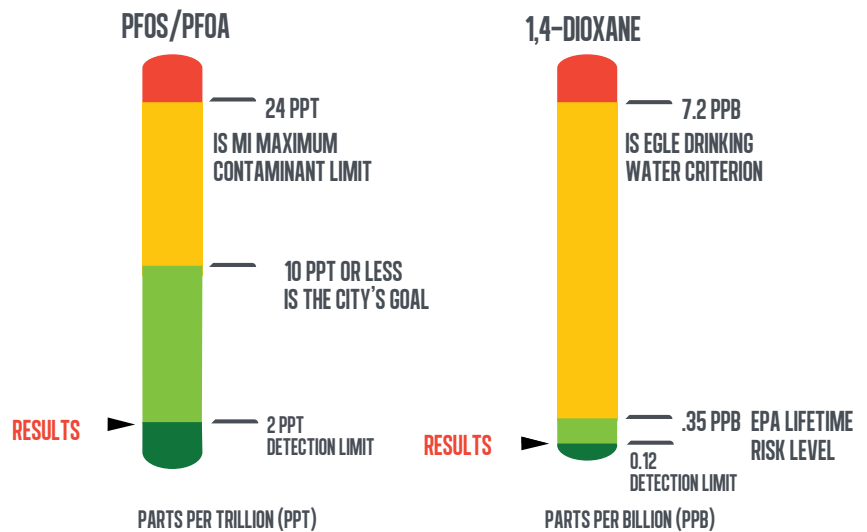
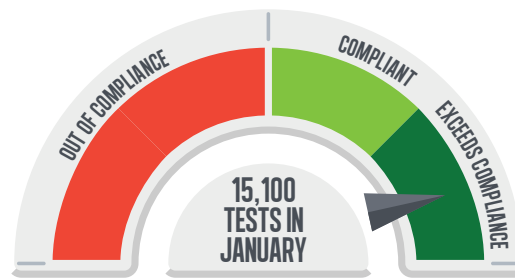
### Ensuring safe drinking water

Periodically, we are asked how we ensure the drinking water remains safe to drink if we know our source water from the Huron River contains PFAS, bacteria, or runoff from the watershed.

The Ann Arbor Drinking Water Treatment Plant is designed to remove contamination to produce high quality drinking water. We have multiple barriers of defense for each type of contamination that might be encountered in our source water. We use lime softening to remove minerals (to protect your appliances); we disinfect with ozone to destroy bacteria and other microorganisms; we filter through granular activated carbon and sand to remove particles, PFAS, and other organic contaminants; we disinfect again with UV light; and we use monochloramine disinfectant to keep the water safe from microorganisms as it travels to your home. We conduct 175,000 tests on our water per year and provide data to you on our website as well as to the state of Michigan to optimize the process and prove the water treatment process is reliable and produces high quality drinking water that is safe to drink.

As the water travels to your house, one way we ensure no contamination can enter the system is by keeping the system pressurized, so if a leak occurs water rushes out and blocks contamination from entering. During the winter, we see the most main breaks because as the ground freezes and thaws, so does any water trapped in the soil. Water molecules in ice are arranged in a structure that takes up more space than liquid water, forcing the ground to expand. While the water mains are buried below the frost line underground, the extra force

## MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



### Why is my water cloudy?

Cold water can hold more air than warm water, so when the pipes are cold and the water is put into a glass in your warm house, the water can no longer hold as much air. Therefore, you see the air transitioning from dissolved (in between the water molecules) to gas phase (air bubbles). Also, the water will be under pressure in your pipes, so it can hold more air. When you pour a glass of water the pressure in your room is lower. Similar to when you open a warm can of pop, the air escapes. Notice your water clears up from the bottom first as the bubbles escape out the top.



Continued on page 2

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from the expanded ground above is enough to cause leaks. Furthermore, the pipes themselves can expand and contract as temperatures change causing more stress on our aging infrastructure.

### Water main break impacts

Most main breaks are small and only impact a few customers, but periodically we have larger breaks. If we can keep the distribution system pressurized through the main break, then contamination does not have a chance to get into the pipes as water will always be flowing out. Boil water advisories due to water main breaks are infrequent. The last main break that caused a boil water advisory to be issued to a portion of the city was June 2021, and the next most recent was on March 11, 2013. A boil water incident does not necessarily mean contamination is in the system. We did not find contamination in the system in June 2021, but we issued a boil water advisory in an abundance of caution and until testing could determine no contamination occurred due to low pressure. If you notice a significant water pressure drop in your cold water at all taps, please notify us through [A2 Fix It](#) or by phone at 734.794.6426.

### Sign up for emergency notifications

If there is an emergency relating to drinking water, there will be an alert posted on the City of Ann Arbor's website, [www.A2gov.org/urgent](http://www.A2gov.org/urgent), and on the Water Treatment Plant's website, [www.qualitywatermatters.org](http://www.qualitywatermatters.org). Please sign up [here](#) for alerts through the city's emergency notification system to receive information directly to you via text, phone or email.

As always, please continue to contact us if you have questions about your drinking water at [water@a2gov.org](mailto:water@a2gov.org) or in the case of an emergency you can reach us by phone at 734.794.6426.

*Becky Lahr*

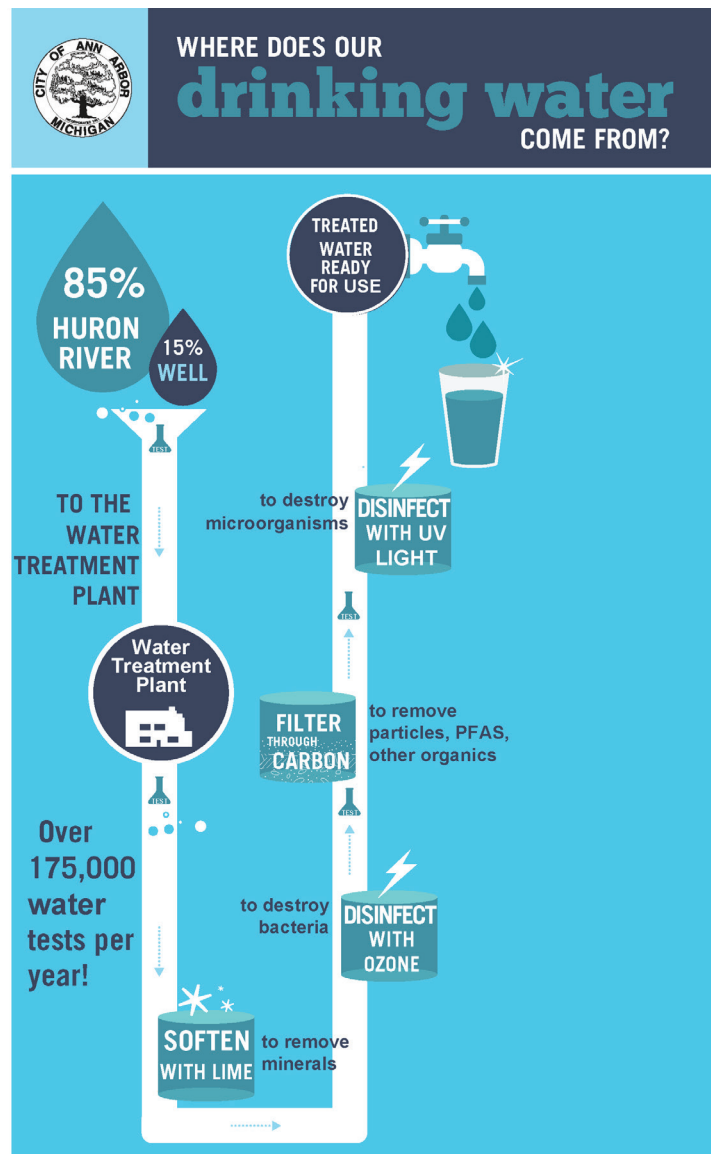
Becky Lahr, PhD, City of Ann Arbor Drinking Water Quality Manager

### Michigan PFAS Action Team launches online mapping tool

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has launched a [new interactive map to feature](#) their efforts sampling PFAS in Public Water Supplies (including City of Ann Arbor drinking water), surface waters, and sites with known PFAS contamination. We also post EGLE sampling results for City of Ann Arbor drinking water on our [PFAS information page](#) alongside our own sampling results as soon as they are made available to us.

The new map format puts our data into context with that of nearby communities and those across the entire state, so you can use the tool to explore PFAS data across the state.

Contact us! 734.794.6426 • [water@a2gov.org](mailto:water@a2gov.org) • [www.QualityWaterMatters.org](http://www.QualityWaterMatters.org)



### February 2022 Water Champion



Congratulations to this month's Water Quality Champion, **Lea Monaghan**.

Monaghan works as an environmental lab analyst, conducting analyses for both the drinking water and wastewater treatment plants that are critical for regulatory compliance and optimization of plant processes. Monaghan constantly steps up to take on extra shifts including weekends and holidays when the lab is short staffed to keep the lab running and producing high quality data. **Thank you, Lea!** Monaghan enjoys field work such as sampling Barton Pond by boat and research projects to test new lab techniques and optimize our monitoring methods.